

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A processing method comprising:
 - a processing step of continuously processing a member to be processed;
 - an inspection step of inspecting a processed state of said member processed through said processing step;
 - a processing state determination step of determining whether said processing state is defective or nondefective, on the basis of a result of inspection performed through said inspection step;
 - a continuity determination step of determining whether or not the defective determination is made more than once and consecutively when said processed state has been determined to be defective through said processing state determination step; and
 - a processing control step of controlling processing such that processing of said member continuously performed through said processing step is stopped when a defective determination is determined to have been made more than once and consecutively through said continuity determination step,
- wherein, if the defective determination is determined to have been made more than once and consecutively, a previously processed nondefective member is reprocessed and analyzed for defects before processing is stopped, and

wherein the processing step is not stopped when a defective determination is rendered once.

2. (Original) The processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:
a reinspection step of reinspecting said processed member; and
an inspection state determination step of determining said inspected state acquired through said inspection step, on the basis of a result of inspection performed through said reinspection step.

3. (Original) The processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:
a defective level determination step of determining a defective level determined through said processing state determination step, wherein, when said defective state is determined to have reached a predetermined level in said defective level determination step, processing of said member continuously performed in said processing step is halted during said processing control step.

4. (Original) The processing method according to claim 1,
wherein, when said defective determination is determined to continue in said continuity determination step, processing of said member continuously performed in said processing step is temporarily suspended in order to await an external command for said processing control step, and
wherein the continuous processing is suspended in said processing control step in accordance with said external command.

5. (Original) The processing method according to claim 1, further including a processing condition change step of performing control for changing conditions employed in said processing step to process said member when said defective determination has been determined to be continuously made in said continuity determination step.

6. (Currently Amended) A processing system comprising:

- a processing section for continuously processing a member to be processed;
- an inspection section for inspecting a processed state of said member processed by said processing section;
- a processed state determination section for determining whether said processed state is defective[[/]] or nondefective on the basis of a result of inspection performed by said inspection section;
- a continuity determination section for determining whether or not the defective determination is made more than once and consecutively when said processed state is determined to be defective by said processed state determination section; and
- a processing control section for controlling processing so as to stop processing of said member continuously performed by said processing section when said continuity determination section determines that said defective determination is made more than once and consecutively,

wherein, if the defective determination is determined to have been made more than once and consecutively, a previously processed nondefective member is reprocessed and analyzed for defects before processing is stopped, and
wherein the processing is not stopped when a defective determination is rendered once.

7. (Original) The processing system according to claim 6, further comprising:
a reinspection section for reinspecting said processed member; and
an inspection state determination section for determining said inspected state determined by said inspection section, on the basis of a result of inspection performed through said reinspection section.

8. (Original) The processing system according to claim 6, further comprising:
a defective level determination section for determining a defective level determined by said processing state determination section, wherein, when said defective level determination section determines that said defective state has reached a predetermined level, processing of said member continuously performed by said processing section is halted by said processing control section.

9. (Original) The processing system according to claim 6,
wherein, when said continuity determination section determines that said defective determination is continuously made, processing of said member continuously

performed by said processing section is temporarily suspended for awaiting an external command for said processing control section, and

wherein the continuous processing is suspended by said processing control section in accordance with said external command.

10. (Previously Presented) The processing system according to claim 6, further comprising:

a processing condition change control section which performs control for changing conditions employed by said processing system to process said member when said continuity determination section has determined that said defective determination is continuously made.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium with a program recorded thereon for controlling a processing system, having a processing section for continuously processing a member to be processed, and an inspection section for inspecting a processed state of a member processed by said processing section, the program causing said computer to perform processing comprising:

a processing state determination step of determining whether said processing state defective or nondefective on the basis of a result of inspection performed by said inspection section;

a continuity determination step of determining whether or not the defective determination is made more than once and consecutively when said processed state

has been determined to be defective through said processing state determination step;
and

a processing control step of controlling processing such that processing of said member continuously performed through said processing step is stopped when a defective determination is determined to have been made more than once and consecutively through said processing section,

wherein, if the defective determination is determined to have been made more than once and consecutively, a previously processed nondefective member is reprocessed and analyzed for defects before processing is stopped, and

wherein the processing is not stopped when a defective determination is rendered once.